



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*La Diplomatie Française et la Ligue des Neutres de 1780 (1776-1783).* Par PAUL FAUCHILLE. Paris, G. Pedone-Lauriel, 1893. — 619 pp.

This work possesses a double interest for American readers. In the first place, it relates to one of the important European developments of our Revolutionary struggle; and, in the second place, it throws new light on the diplomatic labors of the minister of foreign affairs to Louis XVI, Count Vergennes, a statesman whose influence was potent in bringing that monarch into the American alliance. The chief value of the work lies in the fact that it embodies the results of original research. It discloses from the inside the history of the armed neutrality, as that history may be traced in the archives of France, Russia and Sweden.

The result of M. Fauchille's investigations is to discredit the current supposition that the idea of the neutral alliance was first suggested by Count Panin. The credit of that suggestion he gives to Vergennes, who, from the moment France determined to take part in the American war, sought to combine the neutral powers for the purpose of resisting the pretensions of England in respect of belligerent rights. In order to trace the development of the neutral league, M. Fauchille carefully follows the thread of the negotiations in the correspondence of Vergennes with the French diplomatic agents at the Hague, Berlin, Madrid, Copenhagen, Stockholm and St. Petersburg. When M. de Corberon, the French *chargé d'affaires* in Russia, in October, 1778, first cautiously suggested to Count Panin the idea of a league of the Northern powers for the purpose of resisting British pretensions, the count, who was disposed to take measures against American privateers, exhibited great reserve. Two months later he made an official report in which he argued that Russia had little interest in the general subject of neutral rights, and submitted the curious suggestion that Russia should extend protection to neutral vessels bound to her ports, but not to those departing from them. The ground for this suggestion was that it was the interest of Russia to protect vessels coming to buy her merchandise, but that it did not concern her what became of it afterwards — whether an Englishman or an American got it. Subsequently the Empress Catherine II proposed to Sweden and Denmark a joint declaration which, far from betraying the liberal ideas of the armed neutrality, seemed capable of meaning that the commerce of the North Sea was under the exclusive control of those three powers.

Against these adverse inclinations Vergennes, with his habitual patience and tact, pertinaciously labored. He invoked the aid of Prussia ; but he found his principal opportunity in the employment of good offices to effect a peace between Russia and Turkey. Under the influence of gratitude, Russia readily adopted the suggestion of Vergennes that the declaration previously made was intended to apply only to territorial waters ; and the freedom of the North Sea having thus been recognized, the way was left open for the great diplomatic contest which resulted in the Russian declaration of 1780, and the subsequent league of the neutral powers, commonly known as the armed neutrality.

M. Fauchille traces the development of these events step by step, through the pages of the diplomatic correspondence ; and he is entitled to the praise of having made a valuable contribution to the history of an interesting and important transaction.

J. B. MOORE.

*The Constitutional Antiquities of Sparta and Athens.* By DR. GUSTAV GILBERT ; translated by E. J. BROOKS, M.A., and T. NICKLIN, M.A. ; with an introductory note by J. E. SANDYS, Litt.D. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1895. — 463 pp.

*The Political Institutions of the Ancient Greeks.* By BASIL E. HAMMOND. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1895. — 122 pp.

These two books, and in particular the first, should receive a hearty welcome, not alone from classical scholars, but from all who are interested in studying the development of political institutions.

Among the books that treat of the constitutional antiquities of Greece one of the best is Dr. Gustav Gilbert's *Handbuch der Griechischen Staatsalterthümer*, in two volumes, of which the first is devoted exclusively to the constitutions of Sparta and Athens. In the second edition of the work, published in 1893, this important first volume has been materially improved by careful revision, in which Dr. Gilbert has availed himself of the results of the most recent investigations and especially of the discovery of Aristotle's *Ἀθηναίων Πολιτεία*. The value of this treatise, which he rightly considers to have been the work either of Aristotle himself or of one of his pupils working under his immediate supervision, is carefully and distinctly set forth in a special introduction, which forms an interesting and important addition to the body of literature upon this subject.